

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



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WELCOMING ADDRESS FROM LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR GLENN MCCONNELL

COLUMBIA, SC— On March 13, 2012, long-serving Senator Glenn McConnell fulfilled his constitutional duty as President Pro Tempore and ascended to the office of Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina upon the resignation of Lieutenant Governor Ard. Lieutenant Governor McConnell brings to this office over thirty-one years of experience and an unparalleled dedication to public service.

**Remarks of Lieutenant Governor McConnell
Wednesday, March 28, 2012**

Hello. I'm Glenn McConnell. You might think that ascending to the office of Lieutenant Governor would be a great aspiration of mine or any other President Pro Tempore. It is, in fact, a statewide office. I, however, have worked for the last thirty-one-and-a-half years in the Senate with only one office in mind and that is proudly serving Senate District 41 and dedicating myself to the Senate as President Pro Tempore and Chairman of the Judiciary Committee. It is that position to which I have devoted myself for over three decades and to which I wished to remain.

Over my many years in the Senate, I had the pleasure of learning from some of South Carolina's greatest public servants. In 2001, I achieved the position, for which I had worked so long, and I was elected President Pro Tempore by my colleagues. I worked to create an atmosphere of non-partisanship and mutual respect. I worked to form solutions rather than draw battle lines, a task that has become increasingly difficult in more recent times, as partisan fighting seems more and more prevalent. During my eleven-and-a-half years as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and as President Pro Tempore, I strived to deal with my fellow Senators equally and fairly, regardless of party affiliation. At the end of the day, I believe that the only majority that truly matters is that we are all South Carolinians.

In the time leading up to Lieutenant Governor Ard's resignation, there was much speculation concerning who may take over the position upon his stepping down. Yet, our Constitution is quite clear as to the line of succession should the office of Lieutenant Governor become vacated. Crisis demands clarity, so it was with thought and purpose that our plan of succession was drafted and adopted by South Carolinians.

Crisis also demands leadership. As elected representatives of our great State, we must honor the oaths and duties we've pledged. Our oaths of office are short statements, pledging its taker to discharge specific duties and uphold our Constitution. The language of what is

expected of an office holder is clear and unambiguous. We must remember we are public servants, and we humbly and honorably serve at the discretion of our citizens.

During my entire political career, I have pledged myself to the integrity of our Constitution, and I have fought against those who would twist and manipulate it to their personal or political gain. Our State and Nation suffer because of those who disregard their oaths and treat our constitutions as a means to an end. I must admit that my transition from Senate President Pro Tempore to Lieutenant Governor was an unplanned one, but I will not stop upholding our Constitution no matter how difficult it may be to me personally.

It is of utmost importance for the stability and prosperity of our State that our office holders exercise the duties we have been elected to perform and uphold the oaths we've pledged. I will not contort the expressed desires of our citizens transcribed in our Constitution and our oaths of office in order to keep the position that I might personally prefer, and, in the future, we cannot allow attempts from other elected officials to circumvent our rule of law.

Upholding our oaths should not be seen as a sacrifice. It is simply honoring the promise that we made to those who sent us here. It is a promise to which we asked God to bear witness. If we ask God to bear witness to the pact between the governed and their representatives, we must be prepared for God to hold us accountable to our commitment.

Vacating my Senate seat has been one of the greatest difficulties of my life. Representing the people of District 41 in the South Carolina Senate has been my proudest honor, but my commitment to the Constitution and to the State of South Carolina is deep. I will not abandon it by avoiding my duty. It is for these reasons I've set forth to you today that I most humbly took the oath of office as Lieutenant Governor and that I serve you now in that capacity.

I intend to make this transition as smooth and seamless as possible. I will bring to this position the devotion and dedication that I've given to my service for over three decades, and I will happily serve our State however I can when duty calls. It is my honor to continue to serve you.

Thanks, and have a great week.

End Transcript